

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

Patent Abstracts of Japan

PUBLICATION NUMBER : 11153665
PUBLICATION DATE : 08-06-99

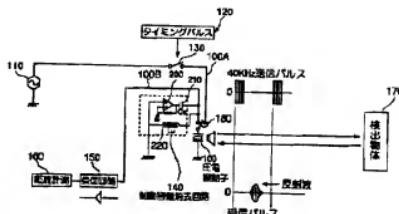
APPLICATION DATE : 21-11-97
APPLICATION NUMBER : 09321548

APPLICANT : SONY CORP;

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INT.CL. : G01S 7/524 G01B 17/00 H04R 17/00

TITLE : ULTRASONIC SENSOR



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To improve the transmitting sound pressure and receiving sensitivity of an ultrasonic sensor used for both transmission and reception by making the resonant and antiresonant frequencies of a piezoelectric vibrator changeable.

SOLUTION: A switching element 180 which switches the transmission line 100a and reception line 100B to and from a piezoelectric vibrator 100 for both transmission and reception to each other is provided. In addition, an oscillator 110 and a switching element 130 which makes switching operations in accordance with timing pulses are provided on the transmission line A and braking capacity erasing circuits 140 and 190, a reception circuit 150, and a distance measuring section 160 are provided on the reception line 100B. At the time of transmission, the vibrator 100 is driven at the resonant frequency of the vibrator 100. At the time of reception, in addition, the reception is performed at the antiresonant frequency of the vibrator 100 by changing the resonant frequency of the vibrator 100 to the low-frequency side by actuating the braking capacity erasing circuits 140 and 190.

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